

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06035 290820Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9693
USDOE WASHDC
INFO USDOE GERMANTOWN MD
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 06035

USDOE FOR BILWY HIB
DVZ.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, PINT, UR,US
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING:
ENERGY INFORMATION AND FORECASTING (08.00, 08.01)

REF: MOSCOW 5815

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DURING 24 MARCH MEETING AT MIN
POWER, DEPUTY MINISTER LOPATIN ASKED THAT U.S. CONFIRM BY
MAY-JUNE THAT THIRD SESSION OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
WILL BE HELD IN THE U.S. IN OCTOBER. LOPATIN RECALLED
THAT MEMORANDUM OF SECOND SESSION SPECIFIES THAT NEXT
MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE DURING "FOURTH QUARTER OF 1978,"
BUT THAT SOVIETS HAD EXPLAINED ORALLY THEIR STRONG PREFER-
ENCE FOR OCTOBER AT SECOND JCM. LOPATIN EXPLAINED THAT
MINISTER NEPOROZHNIY AND OTHER SOVIET MEMBERS OF JOINT
COMMITTEE WILL HAVE VERY BUSY SCHEDULES IN NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER AS POWER-GENERATION REQUIREMENTS INCREASE, THUS
SOVIETS WOULD MOST APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION BY MAY-JUNE THAT
U.S. INTENDS TO HOLD JCM IN OCTOBER. END UNCLASSIFIED.
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2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT - WHILE SOVIET SCHEDULING
CONCERNS ARE UNQUESTIONABLY VALID, WE BELIEVE THAT SOVIET
PERFORMANCE ON COOPERATION IN THE KEY AREA OF ENERGY
INFORMATION AND FORECASTING SHOULD BE KEYED INTO THE QUES-
TION OF TIMING FOR THE THIRD JCM. THE SECOND JCM
EMPHASIZED TO THE SOVIETS THE NECESSITY OF ACTIVATING THAT

AREA, AND SINCE THEN THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN REPLAYING THIS TUNE FOR THE SOVIET EARS. WE HAVE JUST HEARD THE FIRST INDICATION (REFTEL) OF A SOVIET RESPONSE, WHICH SOUNDS DISTURBINGLY AS THOUGH THEY ARE STILL UNPREPARED TO BE FORTHCOMING. WE BELIEVE THE U.S. SHOULD HOLD BACK ON SETTING THE DATE FOR THE NEXT JCM UNTIL THE SOVIET RESPONSE IN THIS AREA IS CLEAR AND UNTIL SIGNIFICANT DATA HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THEM. HOLDING BACK ON CONFIRMATION NOT ONLY ALLOWS US TO AVOID HAVING TO REPEAT AT THE THIRD JCM WHAT HAS BEEN UNDERLINED AT THE SECOND, BUT IT ALSO GIVES US MORE LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN A MORE FORTHCOMING SOVIET EFFORT IN ENERGY INFORMATION AND FORECASTING. TOON

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